CLAIMS

The following is a courtesy copy of the claims, indicating that no amendments are currently made:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for handling digital messages, the method comprising:

determining whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

in response to determining that the sender of the received email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launching an IM session with the sender.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an IM account includes extracting contact information from the email message, the contact information being associated with the sender of the received email message.

3. – 9. (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to, in response to determining that the sender of the received email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launch an IM session with the sender.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, further comprising computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to extract contact information from the email message, the contact information being associated with the sender of the received email message.

12. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

means for determining whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

means for, in response to determining that the sender of the received email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launching an IM session with the sender.

19. (Previously Presented) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

condition-determination logic adapted to determine whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account; and

launch logic configured to, in response to determining that the sender of the email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launch an IM session with the sender.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising information-extraction logic adapted to extract contact information from the email message, the contact information being associated with a sender of the email message.

21. – 24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Previously Presented) A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:

condition-determination logic adapted to determine whether a sender of a received digital message is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account;

launch logic configured to, in response to determining that the sender of the received digital message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launch an IM session with the sender.